Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06842 222229Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

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 $FM\ AMEMBASSY\ BOGOTA$

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9818

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 6842

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TAGS PFOR CO

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL AND NON TRAVEL

1. PRES LOPEZ HAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL NOT TRAVEL TO LA PAZ TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF BOLIVIA ON AUG 6.
A FONOFF COMMUNIQUE CITED PREVIOUS POLIT OBLIGATIONS, ESPECIALLY COMPLETION OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE LOPEZ ADMIN ON AUG 7, WHEN THE PRES PLANS TO GIVE AN ACCOUNTING TO THE NATION OF HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE. PRES-DESIGNATE (VICE PRES) JULIO CESAR TURBAY, WHO IS COLOMBIA'S AMB TO THE US, WILL LEAD THE OFFICIAL COLOMBIAN DEL, WHICH WILL ALSO INCLUDE FONMIN INDALECIO LIEVANO, THE DEFMIN, GEN VARON VALENCP, SEN RAIMUNDO EMILIANI ROMAN AND DANIEL ARANGO.

2. COMMENT: THE INCLUSION OF BOTH TURBAY AND LIEVANO ON THE DEL WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY PROVIDE THE OCCASION FOR INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06842 222229Z

INTERNAL POLITICS. TURBAY, A FRONTRUNNER FOR THE

LIBERAL PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY IN 78, IS
FACED WITH A MOUNTING CAMPAIGN BY EX-PRES CARLOS
LLERAS, WHO HAS SIMILAR AMBITIONS. LIEVANO IS CLOSE TO
PRES LOPEZ AND HAS BEEN LOPEZ'S LIAISON WITH THE
TURBAYISTA WING OF THE PARTY. LOPEZ HAS
SHOWN SIGNS OF REMAINING NEUTRAL IN THE LLERAS-TURBAY CONTEST, AND
TURBAY WILL PROBABLY MAKE A STRONG APPEAL TO LIEVANO FOR LOPEZ'S
SUPPORT IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE A LONG AND HARD FOUGHT
POLIT FIGHT, (A-84). END COMMENT

3.

ALTHOUGH THE COLOMBIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT PRES LOPEZ WILL VISIT MEXICO AND COSTA RICA FOLLOWING HIS STATE VISIT TO THE US, FONMIN LIEVANO HAS INFORMED THE AMB THAT LOPEZ DOES NOT EXPECT TO VISIT MEXICO BUT THAT HE WILL STOP IN SAN JOSE ON HIS RETURN.

4. THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAS ALSO TOLD THE EMB THAT (CONTRARY TO AN 18 JULY FBIS REPORT) COSTA RICAN PRES ODUBER WILL NOT ATTEND THE MTG AT SANTA MARTA ON JULY 27-29, WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED BY COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTS LOPEZ AND PEREZ AND THE PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF GOVT OMAR TORRIJOS. VAKY

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